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Statement of  
Bob Heffernan  
Executive Director  
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before the  
Environment Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
on SB 254 • Regulating Phosphorus Fertilizers

March 7, 2012

While well-intentioned, Senate Bill 254 needs changes to align its goals with sound science and with a reasonable approach.

The bill must have a section that explicitly exempts agriculture.

The bill must also have a section that allows phosphorus-based fertilizers to be used when a soil test shows the soil is deficient in phosphorus. Such testing would have to be done by reputable soil testing firms approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Our green industry has taken an active approach to educate our members on the wise use of fertilizers. For instance, we have an industry representative working with Save the Sound. I serve on the Connecticut Water Policy Council Advisory Group where we have been asked, and are working on, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landscapers, nurseries, and property owners on the judicious use of water and soils.